

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

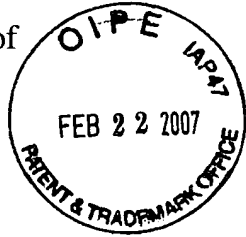
In re Patent Application of

ITOH

Serial No. 10/686,631

Filed: October 17, 2003

For: SPECIMEN CENTRIFUGE SYSTEM



Atty. Ref.: 160-392 (AMK)

TC/A.U.: 1743

Examiner: M. Wallenhorst

* * * * *

February 22, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT
OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

With respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated November 24, 2006, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner to any extent that such statement characterizes the invention in a manner at variance with the actual wording of the claims. For example, the claims do not require that the cabinets are stacked "on top of one another" as set forth in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. Moreover, the claims do not require centrifuges in "each" of the cabinets. The Reasons for Allowance further provide that the rack conveyor conveys a specimen-container rack containing specimen containers "to the vertical stack of cabinets," while claim 1 rather recites that the rack conveyor conveys ". . . to the centrifuge unit." Still further, the Reasons for Allowance provide that an elevator of the rack elevator is "provided at the side of the vertical stack of cabinets," while claim 1 recites that the elevator is provided "at a side of the centrifuge unit . . ."

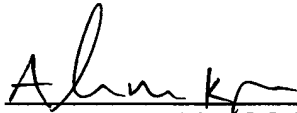
ITOH

Serial No. 10/686,631

As set forth in the Notice of Allowance, these comments are being filed along with the payment of the Issue Fee.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Alan M. Kagen
Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jls
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100